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# HOW TO CUT SOUTHERN FARM TIMBER FOR STEADY PROFIT



LEAFLET NO 153  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



### **THIS FARMER PRACTICES SELECTIVE CUTTING**

**His Woodlands Are Kept Growing at the Maximum Rate and Producing the Best-Paying Kinds of Timber**

The owner of this farm woodland cuts a few trees at a time. Always he has a good stand of thrifty trees growing on the land. These produce quality crops of timber which give him a continuous income from his investment. The trees receive abundant light and moisture and grow far more rapidly than they would if selective cutting were not practiced. The products harvested include sawlogs, poles, piling, pulpwood and fuel wood.

### **SELECTIVE CUTTING PAYS**





## HOW TO CUT SOUTHERN FARM TIMBER FOR STEADY PROFIT



By WILBUR R. MATTOON, *Extension Forester, Forest Service*

### New Markets for Southern Timber Call for Better Cutting Methods

**W**HY should southern farmers continue cutting their timber in ways that materially reduce the income-producing capacity of their farms?

New pulp and paper mills are being constructed in the South with each passing year. New markets for wood are thus being created. Continued existence of these mills depends upon a steady and constant supply of pulpwood for many years. Therefore, wise land-owners will plan to grow and harvest continuous crops of wood and timber. When heavy cuttings are made, such as timber buyers have commonly specified in the past, continuous and profitable production is impossible.

Farmers have too long made the mistake of excessive cutting of timber stands. Such practice is probably traceable to the days of destructive and wasteful lumbering. Heavy cutting will greatly reduce the annual farm income over a period of years. On the other hand, through the application of selective cutting and other simple forestry practices, which farmers will readily understand, the economic benefits from timber-growing lands may be greatly increased and extended.

Woodlands in the South may be kept permanently profitable. Timber stands may be maintained and continuous crops marketed when the following objectives are the basis of woods management:

1. Cut timber lightly and frequently—selective cutting.
2. Protect timber from fire and other injuries.
3. Improve the growing timber stand by wise cutting of the weaker or less promising trees for pulpwood, stave blocks, posts to be treated with wood preservative, or fuel wood.
4. Grow some quality timber products on the farm, such as poles, piling, or sawlogs. These usually bring high prices that add up rapidly when figured in the total farm income.
5. If pulpwood prices justify it, add pulpwood to the list of regular farm crops and treat it as a regular and dependable source of annual cash income.

**KEEP YOUR WOODLANDS IN CONTINUOUS PRODUCTION!**

WHICH  
WAY?



**DON'T PER  
YOUR  
FARM WOODS  
TO BE SKIN**





**Farm Timber Is Like Money in a Bank. Use Only the Interest, or  
New Growth, and It Will Continue Paying Dividends**

Trees are the capital in the farmer's woodland bank. If the timber is cut only to the extent that the growth has increased since the previous cutting, the woods' capital remains unimpaired and continues as a paying investment.

Thinnings, as shown in the above picture, can be made repeatedly as the trees grow. Cuttings of this kind are favored by the pulp and paper companies because they can be repeated every few years. Thus, the total production of wood or raw material for the mills may be greatly increased. The woodland will at the same time be producing high-quality timber for the owner, such as poles, piling, and sawlogs. Such quality timber brings good prices and will enable the owner to profit from timber farming.

Compare the above picture with the one on the left. Here the capital in the woods bank has been completely liquidated. There will be little or no new growth, or interest, for many years. Good business and common sense call for a better method of handling farm woodlands.

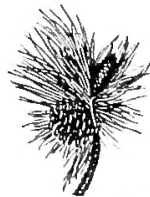




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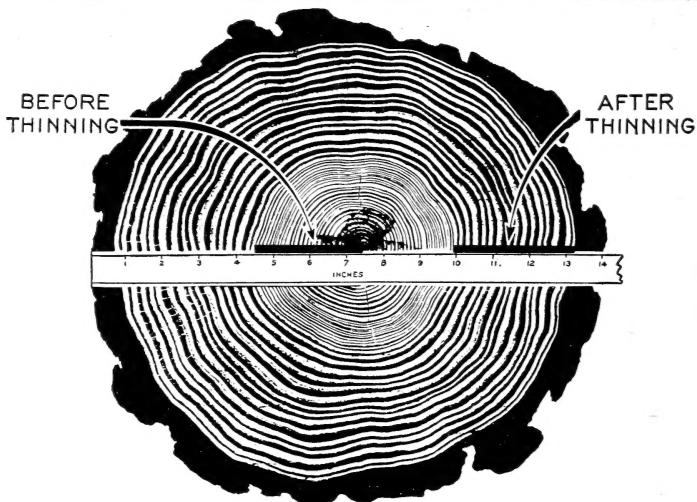


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**GROWTH 3 TIMES FASTER AFTER THINNING**

Trees in overcrowded stands grow slowly. Thinning them out pays in the same manner as does thinning out cotton or corn. The cross-section photograph shows a crowded pine tree that grew only  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter in 29 years. But after the stand was thinned its growth stepped up to an increase of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter in only 15 years. However, the wood volume produced was three times greater than before.



This pine stand has been repeatedly cut lightly for timber for sale or home use. A full stand of young trees is now growing, indicating good management. The high-grade saw-timber trees may be cut very profitably. Timber is a perpetually renewable crop.



## YOUTH AND AGE

### HEAR THE STORY OF GREATER PROFITS IN FARM TIMBER



**Forestry Club in the Woods**

Growing youth is eager to learn. The rural citizens of tomorrow, through their forestry clubs take a keen interest in instructions on how timber fits into the farm program as a stabilizing factor and a good paying investment. Later they will translate their knowledge of timber farming into a more satisfying rural life.



**Farmers at a Thinning Demonstration**

These farmers have learned how to thin an overcrowded pine stand. They have learned the advantages of growing a diversified crop of timber, of including pulpwood, poles, piling, and sawlogs in the products to be secured from their woodlands, and of cutting repeated harvests of trees in the process of successive thinning, all of which help greatly in making a paying enterprise of timber farming.





## CUT YOUR TIMBER CROP WISELY

### GROW PULPWOOD, POLES, PILING, SAWLOGS

Fire has been kept out of these woodlands, and the owner has repeatedly cut and sold woods products which he thinned from this stand. Now he has a good crop of mature trees of high quality and value. He has received dividends at regular intervals and now has an appreciable capital investment intact—he has managed his timberland profitably.

#### SIX HELPS IN SELECTIVE CUTTING

1. Select and mark each tree to be cut.
2. Cut low stumps.
3. Cut the tree into the most usable or best paying product.
4. Avoid injuring the other trees.
5. Be careful with fire—it is the woods' worst enemy.
6. Always leave plenty of trees as growing stock. They are the capital in your woods bank.

For further information consult your county agricultural agent or write to your extension forester at the State college of agriculture, your State forester at the State capital, or the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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